

INFORMATION SHEET

ORDER R5-2020-xxxx

HARRIS FARMS dba HARRIS RANCH

HARRIS RANCH INN & RESTAURANT WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

FRESNO COUNTY

Background

Harris Farms, Inc. dba Harris Ranch owns and operates Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant at the intersection of Interstate 5 and West Dorris Avenue in Western Fresno County. The Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant complex is supported by an on-site wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) that produces undisinfected secondary treated wastewater.

The WWTF serves the inn and restaurant complex which consists of four restaurants, a gas station with convenience store and deli, a general store with meat market and bakery, a 153-room hotel, and the local CalFire firehouse. Wastewater gravity flows to the WWTF where it receives treatment prior to disposal in six evaporation/percolation ponds.

The WWTF consists of a lift pump, twin unlined aeration basins, and six evaporation/percolation ponds. The WWTF is operated by California Water Services (Cal Water). The Board currently regulates the discharge from the WWTF under Waste Discharge Requirements Order 85-159 and its Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Wastewater and Sludge Disposal

From the collection system, influent wastewater flows through a solids-removal auger which has a continuous water spray, allowing trash to be moved out while soil-like solids remain suspended in the wastewater stream. The wastewater then is lifted via a lift pump to one of two continuously aerated basins. After treatment in the aeration basin, wastewater is pumped to an evaporation and percolation pond.

Following system modifications, one of the evaporation and percolation ponds will be divided in two, with aerators added to make twin benthic stabilization (or polishing) ponds. When these are in place the flow out of the primary aeration ponds will be by gravity to the polishing ponds, then flow will go through a distribution box and directed to one of the remaining 5 evaporation and percolation ponds.

Cal Water removes surface duckweed from the evaporation/percolation ponds periodically. Waste sludge is handled only after the pond from which it is removed has been allowed to dry. The waste sludge at the pond bottom is either tilled in directly to the pond bottom or is collected and hauled off-site to a permitted landfill.

Groundwater Considerations

Located southeast of Big Blue Hills and due east of the Diablo Range, the WWTF is near the western edge of the southern half of Groundwater Basin 5-022.09, San Joaquin Valley, Westside. U. S. Soil Conservation Service surveys record the soil underlying the ponds as Panhill sandy loam with 0 to 3 percent slopes.

Depth to groundwater was approximately 500 feet below ground surface (bgs) in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 based on data reported in the [Groundwater Information Center's Interactive Map](#)

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WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2020-____
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[Application](https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/) (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/>). The closest groundwater wells are more than one mile away from the WWTF.

Legal Effect of Rescission of Prior WDRs or Orders on Existing Violations

The Board's rescission of prior waste discharge requirements and/or monitoring and reporting orders does not extinguish any violations that may have occurred during the time those waste discharge requirements or orders were in effect. The Central Valley Water Board reserves the right to take enforcement actions to address violations of prior prohibitions, limitations, specifications, requirements, or provisions of rescinded waste discharge requirements or orders as allowed by law.

CV-SALTS Regulatory Considerations

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Meeting. On 16 October 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a resolution approving the Central Valley Water Board Basin Plan amendments and also directed the Central Valley Water Board to make targeted revisions to the Basin Plan amendments within one year from the approval of the Basin Plan amendments by the Office of Administrative Law.

These programs, once implemented, could change how the Central Valley Water Board permits discharges of salt and nitrate. The Salinity Control Program currently being developed would subject dischargers that do not meet stringent salinity numeric values (700 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ EC as a monthly average to protect AGR beneficial use) to performance-based salinity requirements, and would require these dischargers to participate in a Basin-wide Prioritization and Optimization Study to develop a long-term strategy for addressing salinity accumulation in the Central Valley. The level of participation required of dischargers whose discharges do not meet stringent salinity requirements will vary based on factors such as the amount of salinity in the discharge, local conditions, and type of discharge. The Central Valley Water Board anticipates that the CV-SALTS initiative will result in regulatory changes that will be implemented through conditional prohibitions and modifications to many WDRs region-wide. More information regarding this regulatory planning process can be found on the [Central Valley Water Boards' Water Issues: CV-SALTS webpage](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/).

Reopener

The conditions of discharge in the proposed Order were developed based on currently available technical information and applicable water quality laws, regulations, policies, and plans and are intended to assure conformance with them. It may be appropriate to reopen the Order if new technical information is received or if applicable laws and regulations change.